

placed before the Conference, and which gained at once the assent of Great Britain and Italy, and to a large extent the assent of France as well—that proposition had behind it the 110 millions of people in the Republic. It was carried to a successful conclusion. It set the pace with respect to naval diminution and has taught the lesson that on the whole question of possible disarmament the United States is in perfect accord with all the other peace-loving nations of the world.

There is one further advantage which ought not to be underrated, and that is the position taken by those Powers in Washington towards China, that great, widely distributed, immensely populated country on the Asiatic coast, which has been torn asunder now for five or six years; which had been previously a prey to national exploiters and adventurers and had suffered—perhaps unavoidably at that time—from the interference of greater and more powerful nations than herself, from almost every quarter of the globe. The expression of friendly feeling which was made at Washington and was a notable feature of that Conference, has heartened China and has cleared away a great many of those difficulties without the clearing away of which China, in the near or the more remote future, as she healed her domestic differences, would have found it hard to make the progress which is to my mind her due. No one who visits China and travels through it, as I have had the opportunity and privilege of doing, comes out after his short or longer journey in that immense continent, without having been impressed with its wealth of human labour, patient, diligent, docile, and intelligent as well; with its resources as great as, possibly greater than, those of almost any other country in the world; with the long line of traditions and history behind it—traditions which in many respects have been noble and elevating; and a history in science and in literature which might well be envied by many other nations. That vast conglomeration of peoples, though lightly held together by the ties of actual national loyalty, is unconquerable. Foreign Powers have not conquered it in the way of assimilating themselves in China up to the present time. The visitor to China is impressed with its vast possibilities and the effect they may have upon the world. I do not doubt that the problems of China have been brought considerably nearer to a solution and its possibilities to development by the action which was taken at

Sir GEORGE FOSTER.

Washington by the consent of the different Powers.

On the Pacific Ocean, Japan and China will continue to be the two great powers. With the wonderful later development of Japan, with her versatility, with the strong cement of nationality that binds her people together, with her quick and easy adaptation of improved and western methods of civilization and of industry, and with the firm position that she holds there to-day, with an army strong and well disciplined and a navy large, powerful and modern, it is quite within the range of what is natural and right that Japan should have a commanding position on the Pacific. Just opposite to her is her great, big, sprawling neighbour, not yet brought into unity and compactness of force, not yet welded by a strong feeling of national unity. She ought not to be a prey to a superior menace, or, what would be still worse, a prey to active and propagandist efforts on the part of her neighbour. It is of interest to the world, I think, that those two nations should remain together in a position of great strength on the Pacific Ocean—as neighbours, not as enemies; yet as two distinct civilizations, each powerful and strong in itself, and without that kind of combination which would make them a strong inimical force, possibly, in the development of the world as a whole.

The sympathy and the spirit and the trust and confidence that were shown at Washington by the other great nations of the world with regard to the future of China, and the respect which was shown to the national development of Japan, will have a steadying and stimulating effect; stimulating to the Chinese and steadying to the Japanese nation. That force, mingled as it has been, and expressed and put into active running channels, will have a mighty influence in preserving peace on the Pacific Ocean.

If peace can be preserved on the Pacific Ocean, and on the Atlantic seaboard and in Europe, and if we can get back to the love of peace and in due time, the practice of it as well as the theoretical assertion of it, there is a bright prospect for the future of the world. The forces of war will gradually diminish before the forces of peace. There will be a grand unity of sentiment and desire among the great, forward nations of the world, and an actual working towards the common purpose. There is a silver lining to the cloud of unrest and discontent and disorder which hangs over